



## The interconnected challenges for food security from a food regimes perspective: Energy, climate and malconsumption

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**Year:** 2012  
**Journal:** Journal of Rural Studies

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### Abstract:

Recent experience of food price volatility in global markets encourages closer examination of the dynamics underlying the global food system and reveals a range of contingent factors. Meanwhile a common thread of many recent expert reports has emphasised the need to intensify agricultural production to double food output by 2050. Drawing upon a food regimes approach, the paper argues that the global food system is vulnerable to three inter-connected challenges that make a largely productivist strategy inappropriate. Analysis suggests that there is a strong likelihood of rising energy costs given the anticipated decline in conventional oil supplies which will have repercussions for land-use and food security. Climate change scenarios anticipate rates of warming and drying in large areas of the tropics that will also have huge implications for food security in those areas. Yet the mode of operation of the global food system is to deliver poor quality nutrition with significant dietary health consequences, a phenomenon labelled malconsumption. The paper argues that these issues are closely inter-related and until we address the fact that the global food system remains dominated by powerful economic interests, an effective solution will remain elusive. © 2012 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2012.02.005>

### Resource Description

#### Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker

#### Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Security

**Food/Water Security:** Agricultural Productivity, Food Access/Distribution, Nutritional Quality

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

## **Geographic Feature:**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Rural, Tropical

## **Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Malnutrition/Undernutrition

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

## **Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Low Socioeconomic Status

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

## **Resilience:**

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified